

Knowledge, evidence
and learning for
development

Covid-19, Conflict, and Governance

Evidence Summary No.9

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17 July 2020

This weekly Covid-19, Conflict, and Governance Evidence Summary aims to signpost DFID and other UK government departments to the latest evidence and opinions on Covid-19 (C19), to inform and support their responses.

This week, features resources on: [Rohingya refugee experiences of C19 in the Cox's Bazar camps](#); how civil society can progress the [Women, Peace and Security agenda](#) during C19; how to address [intersecting risks from disasters and C19](#); and how C19 is affecting [peace, conflict and federalism in Nepal](#).

Many of the core C19 themes continue to be covered this week, including: surging [gender-based violence](#) during C19; increasing [food insecurity](#); the particular risks facing [refugees and displaced people](#); and [lessons from previous health crises \(Ebola\)](#).

The summary uses two main sections – (1) literature: – this includes policy papers, academic articles, and long-form articles that go deeper than the typical blog; and (2) blogs & news articles. See the end of this report for details on the method taken for this rapid summary. It is the result of one day of work, and is thus indicative but not comprehensive of all issues or publications.

LITERATURE

GOVERNANCE

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
Protecting the most vulnerable to cascading risks from climate extremes and the COVID-19 in South Asia	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; Policy study	How can the poor in South Asia be protected against climate extremes and C19? This study explores how the intersection of disaster risks (as monsoon season begins) and C19 require different policy approaches to tackle increasing poverty, malnutrition and food insecurity. It recommends: instituting early warning systems; managing climate risks; regional cooperation; local specific customised responses; risk-informed social protection; and scaling up index-based parametric insurance to target the most vulnerable.
Africa's Varied COVID Landscapes	Africa Centre for Strategic Studies; Article	How to understand the risk of C19 for African countries? This article analyses C19 risk profiles for African countries by creating a typology based on: size of population, dimensions of urban landscapes, magnitude of conflict and displacement, demography, and governance.
Lessons from the Ebola epidemics and their applications for COVID-19 pandemic response in sub-Saharan Africa	Muhammed O. Afolabi et al.; Developing World Bioethics; Journal article	What lessons from Ebola can inform the C19 response in sub-Saharan Africa? This journal article finds that the region has improved its ability to handle emergencies due to Ebola. Lessons suggest: strengthen regional coordination of epidemic responses in systems for handling research protocols, data sharing and sample transfer; strengthen community systems for prompt organisation and efficient epidemic responses in health education and promotion, and care facilities.
Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on	Kritika Poudel & Pramod Subedi;	How has C19 impacted on socioeconomics and mental health in Nepal? This journal article explains how C19 has increased fear, anxiety and uncertainty in Nepal. It argues for emphasising

socioeconomic and mental health aspects in Nepal	International Journal of Social Psychiatry; Journal article	and addressing coping strategies, mental health interventions, and awareness now as C19 may continue for an indefinite period.
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Extra papers – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
Productivity Growth, Key Driver of Poverty Reduction, Threatened by COVID-19 Disruptions	Alistair Dieppe (editor); World Bank; Report
Tracking Covid-19's impact on tax in Africa: Formal and informal tax burdens, tax attitudes, and the reach of tax relief	Giulia Mascagni; International Centre for Tax and Development; Presentation slides
COVID-19 Pandemic Lessons from Asia Pacific	Olof Blomqvist, Shaheen Chughtai, & Taskin Rahman; Save the Children; Report
Covid-19 and social protection of poor and vulnerable groups in Latin America: a conceptual framework	UNDP; Report
Building for Peace: Reconstruction for Security, Sustainable Peace, and Equity in the Middle East and North Africa	World Bank; Report

CONFLICT

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
Federalism, conflict and peace in Nepal	Anurag Acharya, Ashlea Brewer, Swechchha Dahal & Ashim Pandey; Saferworld; Learning paper	What lessons are there from governance and conflict programming in Nepal? Related to C19, this paper finds that C19 brings to the fore underlying threats for federalism and stability that have been growing since the 2017 elections. Chaotic and poorly coordinated C19 responses are exacerbating accusations of corruption and further undermining public trust in their elected representative. Lockdown has impacted considerably on livelihoods and access to resources and services, with more severe pressures for poorer and more marginalised communities. Some communities have refused C19 relief support, alleging it is going to privileged community members who have access to the municipal government, and that it is leaving large numbers of poor residents deprived. C19 municipal, provincial and federal-level responses have been inadequate. The federal system is being tested in how it responds, public expectations are still high and patience in federalism's ability to deliver has worn thin.
Attacks on schools in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic	Insecurity Insight; Report	How is C19 affecting attacks on schools? This report identifies 67 attacks across 13 countries damaged or destroyed schools from January to May 2020. C19 challenges appear to influence these attacks, with a decline in the overall number of violently damaged schools since the pandemic was declared, compared to the previous two months of 2020. This is partially due to the ceasefire in Syria, and a ceasefire declared by Anglophone militants in the Ambazonia region of Cameroon. However, closure of schools and the use of school buildings as quarantine centres have triggered violence against school buildings in particular in South Africa. Violence against school

		buildings also remains a concern in Burkina Faso, Mozambique, Ukraine, and Yemen.
2020 Civil Society Roadmap on Women, Peace and Security	NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security; Roadmap	<p>How can the Women, Peace and Security Agenda be advanced? Related to C19, this paper finds C19 is amplifying existing gender, racial, economic and political inequalities, and impacting those most marginalised, including people with: diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics (SOGIESC); disabilities; the elderly; the poor; and the displaced. Women are impacted due to their roles as primary caregivers or healthcare workers, and are often less able to meet their own needs due to structural inequalities. Women and girls in conflict-affected communities are likely more affected e.g. with the surge in gender-based violence (GBV), combined with essential service restrictions. Violence compounds existing risks for women and girls. Preventing all forms of GBV against women requires ensuring the autonomy and human rights of those targeted, and enabling them to lead and contribute to the responses, rather than only seeking to protect from violence. Women's rights must be central to C19 responses</p>
Rohingya Experiences of Covid-19 in Cox's Bazar Camps	Saiful Haque, Zahid Uddin & Arshat Ullah; Political Settlements Research Programme; Report	<p>How have the Rohingya experienced C19 in Cox's Bazar Camps? Based on interviews with 34 camp residents, this report finds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many camp residents have a very basic understanding of C19 and lack information on specific actions to protect themselves. • C19 negatively impacted the livelihoods of many residents – e.g. physical distancing especially affected shopkeepers and public-facing businesses. • Many residents say lockdown has severely constrained their ability to communicate with others. • Residents have been reticent to seek testing, isolation, and treatment in the clinics and hospitals available to them due to fears and rumours of ill treatment. • Many residents expressed distrust and noted a lack of open communication between themselves and humanitarian agencies in the

		camps (national and international agencies, and governmental authorities)
CDT Spotlight: Demonstrations in East Asia	Adam Miller; Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED); Infographic	How has C19 affected demonstrations in East Asia? Based on ACLED data, this infographic finds the majority of C19-related demonstrations have taken place in Japan, South Korea, and China. The reasons for demonstrations include: demands for economic support, demands for government enforcement of C19 precautions, and criticisms of government overreach.

Extra papers – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
Issue Brief: COVID-19 and the other one percent: An agenda for the forcibly displaced six months into the emergency	Hardin Lang; Refugees International; Report

BLOGS & NEWS ARTICLES

GOVERNANCE

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
7 Ways to Conduct a COVID-19 Phone Survey Like IPA	Bsrat Mezgebe; Survey CTO; Blog	How to conduct phone surveys during C19? The blog recommends using: random digit dialing for obtaining contact details; case management workflow for easy tracking of calls; pre-survey SMS messaging to introduce the survey to respondents; virtual recruiting to avoid in-person interactions; remote training and camaraderie-building; device management for data protection; and monitor for quality.

Extra blogs & news articles – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
How COVID-19 health responses impact displaced fishing communities in Uganda	Thomson Isingoma; London School of Economics; Blog
In Latin America, COVID-19 infections surge as virtually every country faces recession	UNDP; News
Religious inequalities and the impact of Covid-19	Emilie Wilson; Institute of Development Studies; News
Cooperation in Latin America: Responses to COVID-19 expose existing cracks in regional infrastructure	Political Settlements Research Programme; Opinion
Developing countries urgently need more policy space to fight COVID-19	Richard Kozul-Wright and Kevin P. Gallagher; Open Democracy; Opinion
Opinion: COVID-19 calls for disrupting the way we communicate in a crisis	Andrew Bredenkamp; Devex; Opinion
Covid-19 in Nigeria: A gendered perspective	Uduak Akpan; School of Oriental and African Studies University of London; Blog
Corporate governance in emerging economies will have to change	Mohammad Nurunnabi; London School of Economics; Blog
Middle East food security amid the COVID-19 pandemic	Omer Karasapan; Brookings Institute; Blog
To vote or postpone? Elections in Africa in the time of COVID-19	Jaxson Cooper; Africa Renewal; Blog
Coronavirus: Kazakhstan denies 'unknown pneumonia' reports but has imposed second national lockdown	Saltanat Janenova; The Conversation; Blog

DRC's Success in Containing Ebola Serves as Lesson to Countries Battling COVID-19	Michael R. Snyder; Global Observatory; Blog
Women across Latin America 'under pressure' to have C-sections during COVID-19	Diana Cariboni, Daniela Rea & Lydiette Carrión; Open Democracy; Article
Covid-19 hastens changes to Chile's market-led economic model	The Economist; News article

CONFLICT

Blogs & news articles – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
Police and courts must do more to reduce gender-based violence	Lauren Tracey-Temba; Institute for Security Studies; Article
Resilience on the Frontlines: In Somaliland, COVID-19 is just the latest challenge for people already facing the worst effects of climate change	UNDP; Photo essay
COVID-19 restrictions preventing people from fleeing violence or forcing dangerous routes, warns IRC	International Rescue Committee; Press Release
Trapped by Covid and a Hostile Europe: Sudanese Migrants and Refugees* in Belgium	Susanne Jaspars Dalal Rajab; African Arguments; Article
Covid-19 and increased Daesh attacks threaten the survival of Iraq's religious minorities	Ewelina Ochab; Institute of Development Studies; Blog
COVID-19 pandemic exacerbating preexisting conflict drivers in West Africa: UN envoy	Xinhua; News article

PODCASTS & VIDEOS

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
RECOVR Webinar Series Cash Transfers for COVID-19 Relief	Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA); Video	In this video, IPA hosts a discussion on the innovative approaches they are using to identify and reach those in need of cash support during C19.
Watch event: The Covid-19 crisis facing informal workers – what can be done?	Institute of Development Studies (IDS); Video	In this video, IDS hosts a discussion on C19 impacts on informal workers and policy responses.
ODI Bites: Africa beyond Covid-19	Overseas Development Institute (ODI); Video	In this video, ODI hosts a discussion on new approaches and forms of collaboration for Africa, Europe and beyond in light of C19.
COVID-19 trigger to re-examine resilience	Denis McClean; United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR); Video	In this video, UNDRR hosts a discussion about the resilience of cities amidst C19.
Webinar: Cyber Resilience, COVID-19 Response and the 'New Normal' – Learnings and Predictions	GC Capital Ideas; Video	In this video, GC Capital Ideas hosts a discussion on C19 and the cyber risk landscape.

DASHBOARDS, TRACKERS & RESOURCE HUBS

K4D - [Covid-19 Resource Hub](#)

Global Voices - [Covid-19: Global voices for a pandemic](#)

ICNL - [COVID-19 Civic Freedom Tracker](#)

ECPR Standing Group on Organised Crime - [Controcorrente \(dedicated Covid-19 blog series\)](#)

The Syllabus - [The politics of Covid-19 readings](#)

Political Settlements Research Programme - [Conflict, development and Covid-19 resources](#)

IDS - [Covid-19: the social science response to the pandemic](#)

GI-TOC - [Covid Crime Watch](#)

CGD - [Coronavirus preparedness & response](#)

ODI - [Reforms, initiatives and campaigns on migrants' contributions to the Covid-19 response](#)

OECD - [Tackling coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Contributing to a global effort resource hub](#)

The New Humanitarian – [Coronavirus news, data, and policy response tracker](#)

ACLED – [Covid-19 disorder tracker](#)

Various - [Crowd-sourced cross-disciplinary coronavirus syllabus](#)

African Arguments - [Coronavirus in Africa Tracker](#)

Insecurity insight – [Covid-19 and security monitoring](#)

Council on Foreign Relations - [Peace, Conflict, and Covid-19](#)

KPMG – [Covid-19 tax developments](#)

European Council on Foreign Relations - [European solidarity tracker](#)

Westminster Foundation for Democracy - [Pandemic Democracy Tracker](#)

ACAPS - [Covid-19 ACAPS Resources](#)

ReliefWeb – [Covid-19 Global Hub](#)

The Economist – [Covid-19 news](#)

IPA - [RECOVR Research Hub](#)

Dalia research - [Democracy Perception Index 2020](#)

V-Dem Institute - [Pandemic Democratic Violations Index](#)

Suggested citation

Herbert, S. (2020). *COVID-19 Conflict and Governance Evidence Summary No.9*. K4D Evidence Summary. Brighton, UK: Institute of Development Studies.

Methodology

Due to the emerging nature of the Covid-19 crisis, this rapid weekly summary includes blogs, and news articles, in addition to policy and academic literature. The sources included are found through searches of Google Scholar, Google, and ReliefWeb with the keywords:

("COVID-19" OR "coronavirus") AND ("developing countries" OR "Africa" OR "Asia" OR "Middle East" OR "Latin America" OR "Pacific") AND ("conflict" OR "peace" OR "violence" OR "resilience" OR "fragility") OR ("authoritarian*" OR "democra*" OR "corrupt*" OR "transparency" OR "state legitimacy" OR "non-state actors" OR "state capacity" OR "state authority" OR "politic*" OR "state institutions")

The searches are restricted to articles published in the previous seven days, in English. This is complemented by: a focussed Twitter search (using just the pages of a small selection of research organisations, and key scholars/thinkers, including those funded by the UK government's Department for International Development (DFID)); and through email recommendations from DFID advisors and leading experts. This is trial and error approach, which will be refined and changed over the coming weeks. If you have literature to include in the weekly summary, please email – s.herbert@bham.ac.uk

Thanks to Priscilla Baafi for research assistance support, and Professor Heather Marquette for expert advice.

About this report

This weekly COVID-19 health evidence summary is based on 1 day of desk-based research. K4D services are provided by a consortium of leading organisations working in international development, led by the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), with Education Development Trust, Itad, University of Leeds Nuffield Centre for International Health and Development, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM), University of Birmingham International Development Department (IDD) and the University of Manchester Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute (HCRI).

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